

PARK BOARD MINUTES
December 9, 2009
Southside Community Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Kibbey, Paul Carrier, Cynthia Ward, Pat Murray,
Dusty Fancher

MEMBERS ABSENT: Excused – Ron Lott

OTHERS PRESENT: Murdock Jemerson, Director, Parks and Recreation; Brett Kaschinske,
Manager of Leisure Services; Kellie Brown, Interim Board Secretary

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:10 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS

None

BOARD MINUTES

Murray moved to support the November minutes as submitted; seconded by Fancher. 5 yeas; 0 nays.

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

CIP FY11

Jemerson provided two lists of CIP projects; one for new projects which included FY10 projects that have not been funded and a second list of projects from the last couple of years that have not been done, but are grant eligible. He advised Board Members when making their decisions both lists need to be considered as matching funds for grant projects must come from CIP money.

Fancher stated she appreciated being provided this information early, but last year we almost did not fund Citywide repair and maintenance and we really need to remember, even though it would be nice to put in some of the special projects, we really need to take care of what we have before we do new projects.

Kaschinske inquired what the target number is. Jemerson stated probably \$1.2 million dollars.

Jemerson stated this CIP list is about 95% complete. Staff put together a spreadsheet, and the only two things that are not on this list that were recommended by staff is the removal or replacement of boat launches at Adado East, Buchard, and Cherry Hill, which are not in very good shape. A majority of the projects on the staff list can be taken care of with city wide repair and maintenance or playground line items.

Carrier inquired about St. Joe and the development of a football facility, we also use Gardner and other sites. He knows the bathrooms have been an issue there, but putting in a press box, etc and is this something the neighborhood wants. Jemerson stated the community football people have indicated, off and on, they would like to see a facility for football.

Kibbey suggested going through the list and obtain a little background and also what is the actual return for the Park Millage. Jemerson stated in the area of \$2.4 million. Kibbey asked if there are items on the

list that the Board would like to start out with agreeing to and is there consensus for city wide repair and maintenance and kids camps. The Board agreed.

The Board reviewed the list in order of priority:

1 – Letts Center – gym expansion. The Board recommended this be a phase project. Jemerson stated Gier funding was done in three increments. Murray stated at Gier the purpose was for Floor Hockey and safety, but what is the need at Letts. Jemerson stated it is a matter of safety for spectators.

1- Burchard Park - Silo Removal. This is a safety issue as it is deteriorating. Jemerson stated pieces are falling off and there are people trying to live in the bottom of the silos. The Board stated this has shown up a few years. Jemerson stated we should not wait until someone gets hurt.

2 – Cherry Hill - Tennis Court and Pavilion Renovation. Kibbey stated this is self explanatory. Jemerson stated the tennis courts have deteriorated; the pavilion has been painted, but is not in good condition. Fancher inquired if the neighborhood association has inquired about these projects and Jemerson stated yes. They are interested in adopting the park, doing some work and seeing the park renovated.

2- City-wide Playgrounds – ok

2- City-wide Repair and maintenance – ok

2- Park Paving Projects – Jemerson stated we can continue to put money into this account. Gier parking lot was on the list as a project, but we were able to pave Gier with money left from the expansion. Fancher asked if it is at a point that it is a problem, as she would prefer to see gravel lots.

2- River Trail Repair and Maintenance – This is a project that is always there.

2- Kids Camp – ok

2- Munn Park – Jemerson stated this is a court replacement, but there does not have to be one there. Fancher stated most people drive there and eat lunch, but she has never seen anyone place basketball there. This is a park with some challenges and how could it be used.

2- Adado Riverfront Park – Replace irrigation system. Fancher inquired how often is the irrigation system used. Jemerson stated it is used after large events and the system is old.

2- Moores Park and Hunter Swimming Pools – ADA compliance. Kaschinske stated there may be grant money available to apply for.

3- Adado River Front Park Bandshell

3- Foster Community Center – office integration

3- Ranney Skate Park – Add a kids skate area. Jemerson stated we could approach East Lansing and Ingham County for funds. This would be a modular skate park so bikes could also use it. Fancher asked how this could be built for \$100,000. Jemerson stated there is already a kid's area there; this would be to enlarge the current area. Kibbey inquired if there is a breakdown for the different aspects of this project and asked for one to be provided.

3- Crego Park – MDNR Grant Match – This would be a phase project.

4- Gier Park Ballfield Improvements – Lights. Fancher inquired how many teams are playing at the fields. Kaschinske stated there are leagues Monday through Thursday, weekends and youth have been moved out there also. Kibbey wanted to see backup documentation on this, how much league activity there is, how much money it generates and how much it cost us for staff to prep the field, sign up, etc. Also, there is concession money and historically it has gone to Gier items and is there a way to get a contribution. Kaschinske stated it still gets recycled into the system for Gier youth, for example they send kids to camp and recently paid \$5,000 for 19 Floor Hockey teams for league registration and pre-season tournament.

4- North Cemetery – Jemerson stated this is a project to put back up the entry way arch and renovation on the fallen markers that do not have family to take care of it. Murray inquired if there was some way to get a construction involved and assist with the cost.

4-Forestry Division – Tree purchasing and planting. No discussion

5- City-wide Park Map – Jemerson stated the River Trail Map was funded and it is being worked on now with a company from Ann Arbor as to the scope of work to be performed and then an RFP will be put out.

5-Frances Park – Phase 3 Master Plan. Kibbey stated this is a very active group and inquired if they have had any financial participation in any of the activities to this point. Fancher also stated they are a pretty active political group as well. Jemerson asked the Board how they feel, since the grant has been denied by the DNR, about trying to fix Cambridge to the existing trail to Frances Park. This would be the walking from Cambridge toward Frances Park to where the trail stops along Moores River Drive to get people off the road. Fancher stated she did a site tour last year and found this to be dangerous walking from one park to the other park along the road and she does not know why Public Service wouldn't contribute to help fund this. It is partially their role to separate traffic and provide a safe route. Ward stated the need seems less now because you are able to get to the Park from Cambridge.

5- St. Joe or Davis Park – Basketball Complex. Kaschinske stated last year a presentation was done on a facility in Battle Creek. He echoed the comments about Munn, there have been a lot of one or two courts removed that are in neighborhoods. The popularity of basketball is high, but because of the traffic on one or two court facilities becomes a problem. A four court complex would allow for adults and youth to play, to run outdoor leagues and in terms of neighborhood impact it would be minimal at either of these parks. Carrier inquired how this would be addressed to neighborhoods. Kaschinske stated basketball courts can have a bad image, but these are usually single courts that get taken over by the 18 to 25 year adults and which eliminates the use by teens and neighborhood kids. A multi court complex would allow for programming and change it to a more organized system. Carrier asked if this would be a locked up area, Kaschinske stated yes it would be locked up at night. Murray stated Davis would be a better location with less impact to a neighborhood.

5-RiverTrail Development – Delhi Township. Kibbey stated he would like to know if there is demand for this. Jemerson stated he would follow-up on it.

5-Frances Park Maintenance Garage & Nursery. Jemerson stated this is a request from park maintenance. Since there has been so much done with plants and garden renovations it would be beneficial to have a bigger and better maintenance and nursery area. Fancher asked if it is only that they would like a bigger and better one or are they having problems with the one they have now. Jemerson stated all the plants that are purchased the majority sit outside due to lack of room.

5-Department Showmobile. Kaschinske stated he foresees there could be a problem since the current stage is not ADA compliant. Also the new showmobiles have built in power and right now we pay the city electrician to come out and hook up the electrical. Ward inquired after the initial outlay, would there be an annual cost savings. Kaschinske stated the savings he could see is the city would not have to send in the electricians on overtime, which would be two people on three hour OT call-in and possible two people for three hour take down. Murray inquired if a sponsor could purchase it.

5-Ranney Park Loop Trail. Another element within the Ranney Park master plan.

5-Ormond Park – Construction of new entry to Groesbeck.

Kibbey stated he would like to see Waverly added to this list, at least a plan to start doing something with Waverly.

Jack Hadley Memorial Plaque

Kaschinske stated he provided a presentation a couple of months ago; however the application was not presented at that time. The application and paperwork were provided this month to the Board for review. Jack Hadley was instrumental in getting the 60 and over and 70 and over softball league going, he is in the MASA (Michigan Amateur Softball Association) Hall of Fame. He coached in the youth league through Lansing Parks. The senior softball group is going to raise money to put up a plaque in the north field dugout at Westside Park.

Kibbey stated this is not naming a facility or park or anything, but only placing a plaque.

Fancher moved to support the placement of a memorial plaque at Westside Park, Murray seconded.

Motion carried. 5 yeas; 0 nays.

Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 608, Sec. 608.04 City Market

Jemerson stated in the packet is a copy of the draft from the City Attorney to amend ordinance 608 dealing with serving alcohol on park land. The City Market is on park land and has a new restaurant

where they wish to serve alcohol and this needs to go through Park Board to receive the Board's recommendation.

Kibbey stated it seems to indicate you are able to already to sell beer at Turner, Scott House, Cooley Gardens, Kircher Park, Ranney Field and Groesbeck. Fancher asked if the Board needed to act on this. Kibbey inquired if there was motion and stated the Board is recommending the City Market be allowed to sell, purchase or possess alcohol. Murray asked if the Board is allowed to discuss be a motion or does there have to be a motion to discuss.

Murray inquired if this request is limited to one restaurant. Jemerson stated no, the cheese vendor would also like to sell wine for consumption. Murray inquired what licensing would be necessary. Jemerson stated the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission. Fancher clarified each vendor would have to their individual license. Murray stated this move would be something the vendors would need to go forward with the State. Murray thinks it would be crazy not to allow a restaurant to do this, but he is concerned about approving something that would open the flood gates for everyone there to sell beer and wine. Fancher stated she is pretty sure there are a limited number of licenses available for certain areas and there are different types of licenses for selling and for serving. Ward stated it reads the Mayor's office would also need to approve an application. Murray is concerned with a change of the environment at the City Market.

Jemerson stated it is not down as an action item tonight, administration would like to move forward on this and would like a favorable recommendation from the Park Board, but even without a favorable recommendation the City will move forward anyway.

Murray moved to move forward on this recommendation with the concept the Board is not opposed with the sale and consumption of alcohol at the City Market, but with the understanding the Board is concerned with regulation be focused on insuring a family friendly environment and not a bar environment.

Motion carried. 5 yeas; 0 nays

Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Kellie Brown, Interim Board Secretary

Approved January 13, 2010